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SENATE MEMORIAL 21

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

Phil A. Griego

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THAT THE APPROPRIATE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
STUDY TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS REFORM**

**WHEREAS, there is a significant disparity between rates
charged by telecommunications carriers in New Mexico for
intrastate switched access services and rates charged by the
same carriers for interstate switched access services; and**

**WHEREAS, the intrastate switched access service rates
charged by some telecommunications carriers in New Mexico are
among the highest in the region of the country; and**

**WHEREAS, the high rates being charged for intrastate
switched access services have resulted in high rates in New
Mexico for intrastate long-distance services compared to
interstate long-distance services; and**

WHEREAS, the high rates for intrastate switched access

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1 services and for intrastate long-distance services may serve as
2 a deterrent to increased competition in the telecommunications
3 industry for some areas of New Mexico and may deprive the
4 public of access to advances in telecommunications technology;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, in passing both the New Mexico Telecommunications
7 Act and the New Mexico Rural Telecommunications Act, the
8 legislature mandates maintaining the availability of access to
9 telecommunications services at affordable rates and of
10 comparable long-distance service rates for comparable markets
11 and market areas; and

12 WHEREAS, in both the New Mexico Telecommunications Act and
13 the New Mexico Rural Telecommunications Act, the legislature
14 encourages competition in the telecommunications industry, to
15 the extent consistent with maintaining the availability of
16 access to telecommunications services at affordable rates and
17 of comparable long-distance service rates, which allows public
18 access to rapid advances in telecommunications technology; and

19 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the legislature
20 and other interested and affected parties to address the
21 disparity in intrastate and interstate switched access rates in
22 an expeditious manner;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
24 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative council direct the
25 appropriate interim legislative committee to study and propose

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1 legislation to address the rate disparities for intrastate and
2 interstate switched access and long-distance services provided
3 by telecommunications providers in the state; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as the appropriate interim
5 legislative committee considers changing current law to ensure
6 comparable rates, it should be mindful of the goals of
7 maintaining access to telecommunications services at affordable
8 rates, of encouraging competition and of encouraging access to
9 advances in telecommunications technology; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate interim
11 legislative committee report its findings to the first session
12 of the forty-seventh legislature; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to members of the legislative council and the
15 public regulation commission.